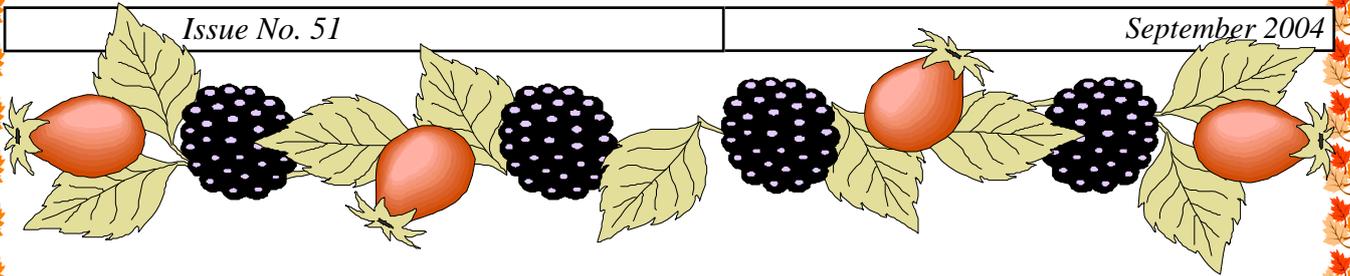




# Cooper News

Issue No. 51

September 2004



## CE4 - CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT

The final week of the summer term for Key Stage 3 pupils was a hot bed of activity within school. Out of school, pupils had the opportunity to enhance their curriculum with trips to Portsmouth, Bristol Zoo and a water sports centre in Marlow. All who took full advantage of the three day experience were full of enthusiasm and excitement.



A legacy of the experience can be seen around the school with home made planters and the mural outside the Library adding colour and vibrancy to the school environment. Less tangible, but equally important are the memories the week invokes, the opportunity for form teachers to interact with their form and the educational benefits for pupils being able to focus on one topic for a sustained period of time.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the end of year assembly in the sports hall which was deemed a success for its annual reviews, friendly atmosphere and entertainment. The performances by Year 7 puppeteers, Year 8 African Drums, all year dramatists and Year 9 steel drummers were excellent and added to the occasion. Congratulations to all of them and to Mrs Brodley who put the week together.



## FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### New staff welcomed this term

The last school year saw many changes in our staffing during the year with many promotions, maternity leaves and departures due to family moves. This should not, and has not, distracted us from our drive to deliver the well qualified and specialist staff the school will need to deliver its ongoing vision for the school of providing a secure environment in which all children can achieve to their capacity.

Using the imaginative recruitment and retention strategies, so approved of by OFSTED last year, we have proactively sought and appointed quality staff to replace those leaving. The quality staff we have appointed will help us deliver improved standards of teaching and learning. A summary of the latest staffing changes is as follows:

- Daniel Burton (Head of History)
- Megan Dee (Cross Curricular ICT Co-ordinator)
- Lisa Hewitt (Geography)
- Roselyn Atobeyi (Science)
- Jodie Duddridge (English)
- Charlotte Moss (English)
- Graham Frogley (Design & Technology)
- Amanda Brown (Maths)
- Marie Fremont (Modern Foreign Languages)
- Piers Cardon (ICT)
- Wendy Elliott (Teaching Assistant)
- Vanessa Martin (Teaching Assistant)

### Andy Sceeny

Most parents will be aware from my last newsletter that Andy Sceeny, my Deputy Head, took early retirement in the summer. Fortunately, he has returned this year as a part-time teacher and Head of Business Studies, but intends to leave the school permanently next summer. I will leave most of his leaving "celebrations" and acknowledgement of his huge contribution to The Cooper School over the years until that time. However, it would be remiss of me if I were not to express my significant gratitude to him for all his superb work and commitment to Cooper School. His help and advice, his caring approach and his outstanding integrity in doing his job have been a superb example and adviser to all staff and pupils: he will be missed by all.

## FORMER YEAR 11 PUPILS' AWARDS EVENING

**Thursday 25 November 2004  
7.30pm Performance Hall**

**For further information please  
contact Mrs Wainman**

### Examination Results 2004

This year's series of examination results saw some exceptional individual sets of results and a very pleasing overall performance by the 187 Year 11 students from Cooper School. The results are a great credit to the students and their teaching staff who worked hard together to generate these results. At 45%, the percentage of students attaining the benchmark of 5+ grades A\*-C maintains the good improvement made over the last two years. The overall quality of these efforts can be assessed by the fact that 28%, more than a quarter of the students, achieved 8 or more A\*-C passes.

The outstanding sets of results included: Leigh Honour (11A\*/A, 1B), Natalie Sansome (9A\*/A, 4B), Joanne Brimble (9A\*/A, 3B), Stuart Garratt (7A\*/A, 2B, 1C), Neil Flynn (6A\*/A, 4B), Lauren Berry (6A\*/A, 3B, 3C), Falah Hamidi (7A\*/A, 2B, 1C), Laura Poole (5A\*/A, 5B), and Amy Redman (5A\*/A, 4B, 1C).

Whilst these results are very good and should be applauded, it is one of the school's aims to generate a face for success for all students, nurturing their talents. This is amply evidenced by this year's results where many students overcame real difficulties to get examination results of which they can be justifiably proud: 99% of students entered for at least one examination achieved at least one grade A\*-G with 94% achieving 5 or more A\*-G grades.

These results are a just reward for the great efforts made by students and staff alike. We would like to thank all our students for all their hard work and their major contributions to the life of the school during their time with us and we wish them all well with their future careers.

We would like to thank all our students for all their hard work and contributions to the life of the school during their time with us and wish them all well with their future careers. We hope as many of them as possible will be able to join us on our awards evening on Thursday 25 November 2004 to celebrate their achievements.

## “RAISING EXPECTATIONS”

### YEAR 9 - REWARDING EFFORT

#### AWARDS FOR ATTAINMENT SUBJECT NOMINEE/WINNER

##### English

- 1 Nabilah Hamidi
- 2 Josh Duggan
- 3 Clair Cross (**Winner**)
- 4 Mandie Brighton
- 5 Charlotte Gray

##### Maths

- 1 Charlotte Gray (**Winner**)
- 2 Kirsten Stanley
- 3 Matthew Hill
- 4 Will Cooper
- 5 Kelsey Grieve

##### Science

- 1 James Peverill
- 2 Rebecca Oswin
- 3 Jordan Wood
- 4 Ollie Payne
- 5 Lucy O’Neill (**Winner**)

##### MFL

- 1 Sam Houlihan
- 2 Lucy Richardson
- 3 Clair Cross
- 4 Jordan Wood (**Winner**)
- 5 Kelsey Grieve

##### Technology

- 1 Ben Ancil
- 2 Declan Holbem
- 3 Lucy Richardson (**Winner**)
- 4 Gemma Williams
- 5 Charlotte Gray

##### Geography

- 1 Jack Cooper
- 2 Matthew Essex
- 3 Katie Richards
- 4 Matthew Evans (**Winner**)
- 5 Caroline Reid

##### History

- 1 Rebecca Turner
- 2 Kelsey Grieve (**Winner**)
- 3 Liam Godin
- 4 Courtney Leonard
- 5 Daniel Walters

##### RE

- 1 Kirstine Koranteng
- 2 Melissa Crooks
- 3 Martin Royce
- 4 Gemma Williams (**Winner**)
- 5 Adam Blackler

##### PE

- 1 Amanda Careras
- 2 Rebecca Gill
- 3 Jo Williams
- 4 Sam Spinks
- 5 Sam Houlihan (**Winner**)

##### Creative Arts

- 1 Tom Miles
- 2 Charlotte Gray
- 3 Mikaela McShea
- 4 Hannah Raynor (**Winner**)
- 5 Georgina Newell

#### AWARDS FOR PROGRESS SUBJECT NOMINEE/WINNER

##### English

- 1 Declan Holbem (**Winner**)
- 2 Emma Gray
- 3 Abbey Black
- 4 Luke Bostock
- 5 James Arthur

##### Maths

- 1 Ricky Auger (**Winner**)
- 2 Philip Mulhall
- 3 Michael Taylor
- 4 Mark Spittle
- 5 Robert Scaysbrook

##### Science

- 1 Will Clayton
- 2 Kate Enock
- 3 Jamie Coleman (**Winner**)
- 4 Hannah Raynor
- 5 Alex Elsdon

##### MFL

- 1 Mikaela McShea (**Winner**)
- 2 Kirstin Bardwell
- 3 Philip Mulhall
- 4 Stacey Lyons
- 5 Adrianna Dahl

##### Technology

- 1 Ben Hookham
- 2 Stephanie Sparks
- 3 Robert Scaysbrook
- 4 Luke Bostock (**Winner**)
- 5 Alex Russell

##### Geography

- 1 Jason McGladdery
- 2 Lucy Miles (**Winner**)
- 3 Leanne Harris
- 4 Jamie Coleman
- 5 Ricky Auger

##### History

- 1 Matthew Kite
- 2 Clair Cross
- 3 Bell Lovell (**Winner**)
- 4 Sam Monaghan
- 5 James Setterfield

##### RE

- 1 Leighton Williams (**Winner**)
- 2 Danielle Beesley
- 3 Daniel Hobbs
- 4 Rebecca Cooper
- 5 James Gambrell

##### PE

- 1 Will Cooper (**Winner**)
- 2 Kimberley Hickey
- 3 Ben Hookham
- 4 Leticia Jaggs
- 5 Robert Seal

##### Creative Arts

- 1 Daniel Ruiz
- 2 Collete Clarke
- 3 Philip Mulhall (**Winner**)
- 4 Amy Hopcraft
- 5 Emily Union

**Service to School Award:** Lucy Richardson, Gemma Williams

### YEAR 10 INCREASING AWARENESS

Selected groups of pupils from Year 10 were given information during the summer term to help raise their expectation



levels and increase their awareness of the opportunities which are open to them when they leave Cooper School. Some 60 pupils were taken to Oxford Brooks University to experience a day as a student whilst another 60 spent the day problem solving with the British Army. All 200 Year 10 pupils went on Work Experience and had a wonderful time.



### YEAR 11 ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

All Year 11 pupils and their parents were given the opportunity early this term to meet with their form tutor to discuss the future and set targets for success in their examinations. The day was mutually beneficial in setting out the challenges which lie ahead and providing solutions to overcoming those challenges to provide a clear pathway to success.

#### COOPER SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

**THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2004**

**6.00-8.00pm Departments on display  
7.00pm & 8.00pm Address by  
Headteacher and Senior Teachers in  
the  
Performance Hall**

## ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department are thrilled with the excellent GCSE results - those who managed to come to the exhibition will not be surprised as the students had worked very hard and the standard was exceptionally high. Well done to them all.

Hope you saw the Bicester Carnival and enjoyed our float featuring giant heads made by last year's 8.6. It looked fantastic, well done!

**Mrs Burnand**



## SCIENCE MODULAR EXAMINATION

**18 November 2004  
2 March 2005  
24 May 2005**

**Years 10 and 11**

**If pupils are absent for an exam, they will not be entered for a resit and will have to pay for the missed exam - unless they have a doctor's note!**

## MY EXPERIENCE AT CHEMISTRY CAMP

My experience at chemistry camp was definitely an experience I will never forget. From the first nervous day to my unhappy departure I enjoyed every minute of it. When I arrived in Bristol to complete my week long chemistry course I was expecting to be frowned upon because my knowledge of science wasn't perfect. However, when I arrived my expectations were blown away. The staff were friendly and helpful, the other people were really nice and the accommodation was really comfortable.

My day consisted of breakfast early in the morning, and then doing an experiment for two parts of the day, having lunch in between. In the evening we would either have free time or we would do an activity together like rock climbing or bowling. We also visited '@Bristol' which is an activity science museum. This was a lot of fun and really entertaining.

My favourite experiment was the bubbles experiment where I made soap and played with lots of different ways to make bubbles and lots of different shapes of bubbles.

I would recommend chemistry camp to everyone in the years to come because it is a tiring week but it is also a lot of fun and very educational.

**Emily Williams (11.5)**

## GCSE POETRY PERFORMANCES

**Tuesday 9 November 2004**

The English Department will again be taking a group of Year 11 students to the GCSE Poetry Performances in Milton Keynes. These lively events help to bring poetry closer to the students. More details available from the English Department.

## GCSE ENGLISH & LITERATURE COURSEWORK

**Final date for submission is**

**MONDAY  
1ST NOVEMBER**

## THE RIVERBOAT CRUISE

The Riverboat cruise was a fantastic night. It was fun and enjoyable. The boat was full of character and was nicely decorated. Everyone went back to their childhood by dancing to Bob the Builder, which was very educational! Dresses were breathtaking and everyone looked lovely. Best boy and girl of the evening were April Hambridge and Sam Higginson who looked amazing. The food was wonderful. Well done to whoever made the pizzas because they were delicious! The evening was very well organised and the team of teachers that were helping really made the evening. So thank you to all of the teachers that helped out and thank you to the previous Year 10 (now Year 11) team that organised everything and helped to make it a really special evening. **Report by one of our fantastic Senior Students.**

**"We had a lovely evening with Year 10 on the river, thank you for being such fun and good Company". Mrs Burnand and Mr Hiscock**

## DIARY DATES

### AUTUMN TERM 2004

Last day of this half term: Thursday 21 October

**Half term:** Friday 22 October — Friday 29 October

All pupils back in School: Monday 1 November

Last day of Autumn term: Friday 17 December (Lunch time)

### SUMMER TERM 2005

All pupils in School: Monday 18 April -

Friday 27 May

**May Day (Bank Holiday):** Monday 2 May

**Half term:** Monday 30 May — Friday 3 June

All pupils back in school: Monday 6 June

Last day of Summer Term: Friday 22 July (Lunch)

### SPRING TERM 2005

**In Service Training Day: pupils not in school:**

Tuesday 4 January

All pupils back in School: Wednesday 5 January —

Friday 11 February

**Half term:** Monday 14 February — Friday 18 February

All pupils back in school: Monday 21 February

**Good Friday (Bank Holiday):** Friday 25 March

**Easter Monday (Bank Holiday):** Monday 28 March

All pupils back in school: Tuesday 29 March

Last day of Spring Term for pupils: Thursday 31 March

**In Service Training Day:** Friday 1 April

**Easter Holidays:** Monday 4 April — Friday 15 April

### “Talking Points”

**10.00-11.30am**

**Bicester Methodist Church**

**10 November 2004**

The Parent Partnership Service will be holding a Drop In SEN Advice Session “Talking Points” for parents of children with SEN. A chance to talk things through or find out about SEN processes generally. All are welcome.

### Reporting to Parents Schedule 2004-05 (Incorporating Examinations)

| Year | Autumn   |   | Spring   |   | Summer  |  |
|------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|      | 1  | 2   | 1  | 2   | 1   | 2  |
| 11   |  | 25 Nov<br>Full Report<br>6-17 Dec<br>Mock Exams | 27 Jan<br>Effort Grades/<br>Mock Grades<br>3 Feb<br>Parents' Eve |   |   |  |
| 10   | 28 Sept<br>Coursework<br>21 Oct<br>Effort Grades |   |  | 3 March<br>Full Report  |   | 13-24 June<br>Exams<br>28 June<br>Parents' Eve |
| 9    |  | 25 Nov<br>Effort Grades                         |  | 21-25 Feb<br>Exams<br>22 Feb<br>Options Eve<br>17 March<br>Effort Grades<br>23 March<br>Effort Grades | 3-6 May<br>SATs<br>9-13 May<br>CATs             | 14 July<br>Full Reports                        |
| 8    |  | 25 Nov<br>Effort Grades                         |  | 7-11 March<br>Exams<br>17 March<br>Effort Grades<br>29 March<br>Parents' Eve                          | 26 May<br>Full Reports                          |  |
| 7    | 21 Oct<br>Effort Grades<br>4-8 Oct<br>CATs       | 17 Nov<br>Settling in Eve                       |  | 23 March<br>Full Report   | 18-22 April<br>Exams<br>12 May<br>Effort Grades |  |

## FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

### Buildings

The holiday periods continue to be very busy for the Facilities Team who are on site throughout the year managing the buildings and site generally.



The Facilities Department have continued with their rolling programme of classroom decoration. This summer the department have painted all the classrooms in Humanities- back where they started five years ago.

Now that task is finished, the decorating effort will be moving to Technology. In addition to the general programme of decoration, focus has been on decorating toilet areas. Over the past 18 months, one large toilet area has been decorated four times, other areas at least once. Work towards making more toilet areas easily accessible to pupils has been carried out whilst further work is scheduled this term.

What was planned by The Cooper School to be a standard improvement to the gymnasium floor has turned into major building works. The school was planning replacement of the expansion joints and then stripping and resealing the sprung wood floor. However, water was found beneath the floor and engineers were brought in to identify the source. The result has been extensive roof work and a new gym floor. We have taken the opportunity to carry out some minor refurbishing works in the changing rooms. The gym is expected to be back in use at the end of September.

### Grounds

One of the major issues over the last few years has been the amount of mud and dirt around the site, which is picked up and walked into school by pupils during period changes and after breaks. In conjunction with the LEA, The Cooper School have invested in new paths and fencing, and developed landscaping to direct foot traffic. Further work is planned by the service road gates adjacent to the tennis courts, work to corners of the central quadrangle, and finally at the entrance to the Sports field opposite Buffers. Other investment in the grounds has been the provision of more seating and picnic benches for pupils.

The regular holiday maintenance tasks, including major cleans have taken place around various activities on the site such as the Gifted and Talented Summer School in the early part of the holidays, and the theatre workshop company, Perform! Who were on site during August. **Mrs James**

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

At the end of the summer term, I was invited to represent the

### OXFORDSHIRE TOURING THEATRE STAGE 'BIG BABY'

Friday 8 October 2004 - 7.30pm

In The Venue (Performance Hall)

Year 10 and above only

Tickets £5.00 from Drama Department

school at a showing of a video mainly made by and performed by ex-Cooper students at The Courtyard. The video was about the trials of young motherhood. It was wonderful to see how much our former students had benefited from the experience and how much the professional media gained from working with the young people.

Drama and dance had a big part to play in 'Chains' a dance drama created by UNESCO to help young people focus on those less fortunate in the developing world. Year 8 students and some very brave staff strutted their stuff for a day during Curriculum Enhancement **CE4**.

Early in the summer holidays Mathew Downer, Tanya Govorusa, Emma Hobbs, Hannah Raynor, and Leanne White took part in a professional production of the musical hit 'Annie' at the Oxford Playhouse. It is very encouraging to think that so many students feel confident enough to put themselves forward for auditions (and that their parents are so supportive!)

The next round of auditions is for Oxford Playhouse's Christmas production of 'Peter Pan'. We'll keep our fingers crossed for all those going for audition.

As you will remember, some of our young people got the chance to work with professional filmmakers, scriptwriters and

### WANTED

Blindfolds/eye shields for Drama games.  
All donations gratefully received.

animators last summer. Their film is now completed and we will be arranging a screening very soon. This was all made possible through Cherwell District Council.

We are taking a bold step with our next big school production being Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'. It has been a while since Cooper put on a straight play. It is a very demanding piece but its themes are universal and just as relevant today as they were in the McCarthy era. Auditions will be starting very soon....there are a lot of lines to learn!

Hope to see you at a production in the near future!

**Mrs Ramsey**



Everyone at **SPORT RELIEF**  
would like to **THANK**

Cooper School  
for raising £230.00

# SPORTS DAY

The traditional Cooper School sports day took place at the end of June. The school was pleased so many parents made the effort to attend and to those who brought a picnic, well done- let's hope you have started a trend.



The weather was kind and the competition in the track events, the tug of war and the army inflatable assault course, was as keen as ever. This year the day coincided with the Sport Relief effort and the 50th anniversary of the four minute mile run by Roger Bannister. The pupils of Cooper took this on board and wearing one red sock tried to break their own four minute mile relay. The team from Year 9 excelled, just missing the record by the smallest margin running the distance in 4:00.84. Still, they showed just how fast these Olympic runners do run!

# THE COOPER SCHOOL ALL BLUES

## Rugby Fixtures 2004

| Date        | Opposition                             | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 |
|-------------|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Wed 22/9    | Gosford Hill                           | -      | -      | Home   | -       | -       |
| Thurs 23/9  | Gosford Hill                           | -      | Away   | -      | Away    | -       |
| Tues 28 /9  | B.G.N.                                 | -      | -      | Away   | -       | -       |
| Thurs 30/9  | B.G.N.                                 | -      | Home   | -      | Home    | -       |
| Tues 5/10   | Chenderit<br>Wallingford (Cup)         | -      | -      | Home   | Away    | -       |
| Thurs 7/10  | Chenderit                              | -      | Away   | -      | Away    | -       |
| Tues 12/10  | Lord William's<br>Tournament<br>B.G.N. | -      | Away   | Away   | -       | -       |
| Thurs 14/10 | Lord William's                         | -      | Home   | -      | Home    | -       |
| Wed 20/10   | Chenderit<br>Gillotts (Cup)            | Away   | -      | Away   | -       | Away    |
| Thurs 4/11  | Gosford Hill                           | Away   | -      | -      | -       | -       |
| Wed 17/11   | County Festival                        | -      | Away   | -      | -       | -       |
| Tues 23/11  | Tournament<br>B.G.N.                   | Away   | -      | -      | -       | -       |
| Wed 1/12    | Tournament<br>Chinnor R.F.C.           | -      | -      | Away   | -       | -       |
| Wed 8/12    | Tournament<br>Chinnor R.F.C.           | -      | -      | -      | Away    | -       |



The 2004 athletics season was a good one for the school teams. Many pupils beat their personal best times and distances whilst competing for the school in either the T.S.B. county championships or the North Oxfordshire games.

The most successful team was the Year 9 boys who won through to the T.S.B. Oxfordshire round and represented the county in the regional championships. They improved their team score but were unable to gain sufficient points to go to the Nationals. Needless to say, this team won the district event with ease.

The future of athletics looks bright at Cooper judging by the results of the Year 7 boys' and girls' teams. Both entered the North Oxfordshire games and won - well done to them and all those who represented the school.

### TENNIS

There was a summer of frustration for boys tennis as several matches were called off due to poor weather. From those which were played, both the Under 13 and Under 15 teams won through their league, but met stronger opposition in Magdalen College, Oxford in the county semi-final and lost on grass.

### CRICKET

This year the school managed to play home matches thanks to Bicester and North Oxford Cricket Club who linked with the school and provided us with their wonderful facilities at Chesterton. As a result, many boys have joined the club and have played regular club cricket. The whole project has been a huge success. Unfortunately, success on the field proved to be more difficult as the Under 13 and 15 teams finished with a 50/50 record which was not good enough to get them into the end of year finals. The highlight of the year was probably the Year 9 Curriculum Enhancement game at Marsh Gibbon cricket club. Once again, we thank the club for use of their facilities.

An A4 copy of this Newsletter is available from Reception